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Homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

FRIDAY, April 9, 1943

SUBJECT: "HOME FRONT NOTES." Information from officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of Price Administration.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Notes today for the home front in wartime concern household refrigerators ...stove pipes and chimneys...and wood to burn in your stove or fireplace next year.

First, the notes on refrigerators--mechanical refrigerators in such great demand these days. Price Administration officials recently changed their regulations on prices and sales of used refrigerators. The idea in back of the changed regulation is that dealers will release many thousands of refrigerators they have been holding since last May. The new regulations set the guarantee period on these reconditioned refrigerators at 90 days. The ceiling price on refrigerators now guaranteed for 90 days is the same as on second-hand refrigerators formerly guaranteed for a year.

And if you, an "individual householder," want to sell a refrigerator you own, you also must sell under ceiling prices, according to the new order. Or, if you want to rent your refrigerator, you will rent under ceiling prices.

Like most other mechanical home equipment, refrigerators are precious these days--and will be as long as the war lasts. If you own a refrigerator, you need to give it the best possible care to keep it in good condition.

Home equipment specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture offer you a free folder called "How to Make Your Refrigerator Last Longer." You can get a copy of this folder by writing to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. and asking for it. Once again--it's called "How to Make Your Refrigerator Last Longer." And it's free...as long as the free supply lasts. A postcard addressed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. will bring it to you.

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That folder starts out with the 5 simple rules to help you get longer, better service from your refrigerator. Those easy rules are: First, place your refrigerator in a cool spot on a level floor. Second, keep every part clean:..hands off the rubber gasket around the refrigerator door. Third, watch the temperature... keep it cold enough to save your food, but not colder than necessary so that you waste fuel and wear out your motor. Fourth, follow exactly the manufacturer's directions for defrosting and loosening ice trays. Never use a sharp tool to get the ice tray out. You may ruin metal trays which you can't replace. Fifth, have a regular checkup on the refrigerator every now and then to prevent trouble and costly repairs.

From refrigerators let's turn to notes on stove pipes.

Stove pipes may be hard to get next winter...may be more difficult to get than they were during the past winter. Government officials put it this way. They say: "Stove pipe and stove pipe elbows will be obtainable only in limited quantities next winter." And they go on to suggest that if you own and use heating stoves, you should give your stove pipes the best of care all summer. If you take down your stove and stow the pipes out of the way in any old shape or place, you may find them unfit for use in the fall--full of rust and broken places. And then, when you go to buy new pipes to replace the rusty, broken ones, you may not be able to get them because of the shortage of supply.

Here are suggestions for the safe-keeping of your stove pipes this summer: First, clean pipe and elbows inside with a cleaning preparation to dissolve rust, and then remove rust with sandpaper or some other fine scouring material. The pipe keeps much better, you see, if it starts the summer clean and free of rust. Also it needs to be clean in order to take a good smooth coat of paint.

The second point is: Apply asbestos furnace cement to all small holes and scratches in the pipe. Get every break and hole mended while they are small and before you paint. You can buy asbestos furnace cement at hardware stores for a

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Third, paint the pipe with a good heat-resistant paint. The paint protects against rusting.

Fourth, wrap the pipe in heavy paper and store over summer in a dry place. A damp basement is no place to keep stove pipe. A dry attic is usually a good place to keep it.

Speaking of stoves and stove pipes, here's a note about wood for the stove. Foresters of the U. S. Department of Agriculture warn that now is the time to plan for next year's supply of firewood, if you haven't done it already. Most wood needs from 6 to 12 months to season properly for efficient burning. The fuel situation next winter may be much worse than it was during the past winter. Cutting each winter's fuelwood the winter before allows a full year for seasoning. Everyone who can cut his own wood this year will be wise to do it. Commercial dealers who cut and sell wood are having difficulty getting enough labor nowadays, yet the demand for firewood will be greater than ever next year.

That's all the news for the home front today.

